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Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CIAE-00
COME-00 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07
TRSE-00 FRB-03 OMB-01 /061 W
----------103259 031248Z /10
P 031244Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5258
INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
ALL EC CAPITALS

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, ETRD
SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION CONCERNS ON TEXTILES

REF: BRUSSELS 3885

1. COMMISSIONER DAVIGNON CALLED ME IN FEBRUARY 2 TO TELL ME ABOUT A COUPLE OF POTENTIAL PROBLEMS THE COMMISSION WISHED TO AVOID IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ADMINISTRATION IN GENEVA OF THE RENEWED MFA.

2. HIS FIRST POINT WENT TO THE QUESTION OF THE SCOPE OF COMPETENCE FOR THE TEXTILE SURVEILLANCE BOARD (TSB). THE EC HAS HEARD RUMORS THAT SOME LDC'S MIGHT BE TRYING TO ENLIST US ALLEGIANCE IN AN EFFORT TO STRETCH THE TSB AUTHORITY TO ALLOW IT TO GO BEYOND QUESTIONS OF IMPLE-MENTATION, AND HEARING OF COMPLAINTS, TO DECISIONS AS TO WHAT WOULD CONSTITUTE A REASONABLE DEPARTURE FROM THE MFA. DAVIGNON SAID HE COULD UNDERSTAND THE MOTIVES OF CERTAIN COUNTRIES IN SEEKING TO "COME IN THROUGH THE
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WINDOW" ONCE THE DOOR HAS BEEN LOCKED AND ALSO THE CALMING EFFECT THIS MIGHT HAVE IN THE US CONGRESS. BUT, HE WARNED, AN EFFORT TO EXTEND TSB COMPETENCE WOULD OPEN AN ISSUE WITH THE EC MEMBER STATES, WHICH HE HAD DONE HIS BEST TO AVOID. DAVIGNON SAID THE COMMISSION WAS DELIVERING A SIMILAR WARNING TO ALL COUNTRIES WITH WHICH IT HAS CONCLUDED BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENTS.

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3. THE SECOND POINT CONCERNED THE FUNCTIONING OF THE TSB. DAVIGNON EXPLAINED THAT A CURRENT US PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD REQUIRE PARTIES TO A COMPLAINT TO REMAIN SILENT DURING THE DISCUSSION AND THE VOTE (AFTER HAVING BEEN ALLOWED TO STATE THEIR CASE) WAS COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE. HE WARNED THAT IF SUCH A PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED, THE EC MIGHT BOYCOTT THE TSB.

4. THE COMMISSION HAS PROPOSED THE ADDITION OF TWO EXTRA MEMBERS TO THE TSB AND FEELS STRONGLY THAT THERE SHOULD BE A BALANCE BETWEEN EXPORTERS AND IMPORTERS ON THE TSB. THE COMMISSION'S MIND IS OTHERWISE OPEN ON THIS ISSUE. DAVIGNON SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT A SOLUTION COULD BE FOUND AND NOTED THAT THE EC WAS NOT LOCKED INTO ITSPPOPOSAL AND COULD POSSIBLY "DO BETTER".

5. DAVIGNON SAID EC TEXTILE TEAM WOULD CARRY THIS MESSAGE TO SAN FRANCISCO AT THE END OF NEXT WEEK FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH SMITH (REFTEL) PREPARATORY TO THE APRIL 3 GENEVA MEETING OF THE TEXTILE COMMITTEE. HINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXTILES, POLICIES, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, TRADE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: 81bebab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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